

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR CONTESTS CONDUCTED  
UNDER ANNUAL OR EVENT PERMITS <sup>1/</sup>

**Black Bass Contests**

All Contests:

1. Insofar as possible, all fish shall be returned to the water alive and in good condition. A limited number of trophy fish may be retained by the sponsor, as approved in advance by the Department.
2. Only artificial lures may be used.
3. Department employees may terminate a contest if, in his/her opinion, any permit condition has been violated or a substantial impact to the resource by the contest is observed or expected.

Weigh-In Type Contests:

4. Each participant in a weigh-in contest shall utilize a device capable of keeping bass alive and in good condition. The contest officials have the responsibility of preventing any individual from competing if a suitable device is not available or is improperly used. The Department also reserves the right to determine the acceptability of any and all such devices.
5. **Bass shall be transported to and from the weigh-in site in water-filled containers such as heavy-duty plastic bags, except during the actual measuring/weighing process. Individual bass over approximately five (5) lbs shall be held in separate bags with sufficient water to cover the fish.**
6. Bass shall be held at all times with sufficient water to cover the fish, except during the actual measuring/weighing process. Fish shall be held in plastic bags no longer than three (3) minutes prior to or after the weigh-in unless the water in that bag is replenished. The same number of containers designated in (5) above shall be used to take them to the release point. Tournament organizers shall ensure that all fish are handled expeditiously in a manner that maximizes the survival of all fish.
7. All bass shall be released immediately after weigh-in near the weigh-in site unless otherwise specified by the Department or a local entity.
8. Where releases away from the weigh in site are required, fish shall not be towed to the release site(s) in devices made of mesh or netting so that the fish are not impinged upon the mesh.

<sup>1/</sup> Prepared and adopted January 1, 1991, March 1997, June 2008, March 2010, updated July 2010.

9. Because of high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels, contests held during the period June 15 through September 15, the maximum allowable period before and between weigh-ins is six (6) hours. All participants are required to weigh-in and release any and all black bass at all required weigh-in times. Contest sponsors or their designee(s) shall conduct inspection of holding devices (such as live wells) to determine that no fish are retained by the competitors prior to the final weigh-in on each day of the contest. Multiple weigh-ins do not allow an individual competitor to weigh in more than a single daily possession limit of black bass during any single day. No exemption to the six-hour rule will be granted.
11. Dead bass shall be disposed of consistent with California Sport Fishing Regulations (Section 1.87, Title 14, CCR: Wastage of fish is not permitted).
12. The sponsor shall provide personnel and necessary equipment to decompress bass that cannot swim down to deep water. Decompression can be by hypodermic needle or cage release at 35 feet or deeper.
13. **All tournament organizations shall provide all participants with written identification containing the following information: (1) Name of contest sponsor (2) name of participant(s) (3) contest permit number (4) date of contest (5) contest weigh-in location. This information shall be the participant(s) possession for the duration of the contest.**
14. Additional Special Conditions may be added by Regional Department staff as necessary.

Special Release Site Instructions for Black Bass Contests:

<u>Water</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Instructions</u>
Clear Lake	Lake	All bass shall be released at least two (2) miles from the weigh-in site, and 400 yards offshore.
Pine Flat Reservoir	Fresno	All bass shall be released outside 5 MPH or "no Wake" buoys at the weigh-in site.
Diamond Valley Lake	Riverside	All bass shall be released outside of the wave attenuator.